

NEPAL , Country Statement
Delivered by Honorable Dr. Ram Kumar Phuyal
Member National Planning Commission
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Chair Person,
Hon. Ministers, Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen:

Very good morning to all of you.

First of all, I would also like to convey my sincere congratulations to ESCAP for organizing the valuable 6th Session of the Committee on Statistics as a high-level session in order to galvanize whole-of-government commitment and support to fully realizing the regional ambition for advancing official statistics for the 2030 Agenda. It is my honour to speak, on behalf of the Government of Nepal, at this important Forum this year and share our experiences and perspectives on the implementation of 2030 Agenda. As the central platform for follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda, this year's theme, "Navigating Policy and Data to Leave No One Behind", rightly captures our common vision and the sole purpose of enriching the quality, reliable and timely data to achieve those Agendas. This is in line with the governments' commitments to support national statistical systems in the Regional Roadmap for Implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific.

Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am happy to share with you some of our achievements. Awareness of the importance of statistical data and information for decision making is a major device for initiating any of the development activities. In order to address the key challenges, we, the policymakers should identify interrelationships and synergies between the 17 SDGs and 169 targets. So, we have developed the indicators and published the SDG-Roadmap which takes stock of Nepal's present development

status and provides a guideline to 2030, with intermediate milestones for 2019, 2022, 2025 and 2030. The monitoring framework in this roadmap aligns and updates national indicators with global ones.

Mr. Chairperson

We have also realized that producing appropriate and timely data for achieving SDGs is not an easy task which include inadequate financial resources and access to technology, capacity development, horizontal and vertical coordination, and production of disaggregated statistical data for monitoring.

As we are in the formative stage of federal structure of the state, localization of the SDGs, that is cascading national efforts to sub-national levels and mainstreaming the SDG-agenda into the state and local levels, remains one of the major challenges. Potentially available resources within the country are about USD 13.5 billion and Nepal has net shortfall of USD 4.5 billion per year for SDGs implementation.

To this end, to meet the growing data needs for national and international development initiatives, Central Bureau of Statistics(CBS) of Nepal has initiated some reformative works to conduction of new big statistical operations which is highly aligned with SDG framework and a separate policy for the management of indicators for the SDG progress monitoring.

CBS has now prepared and recently finalized National Statistical Development Strategy(NSDS) and a new statistical act which will likely to replace half century old statistics act. Government of Nepal has recently prepared approach paper of 15th five years' national plan and long term vision document which has given the high priority to responsive statistical management.

To conclude, **chairperson**, I am confident that this high level segment of "UNESCAP Committee on Statistics" will come up with some concrete steps to produce complete, accurate, precise, timely and inclusive data in order to formulate evidence-based planning and policies to achieve SDGs 2030 for the economic prosperity and social wellbeing of our peoples.

I thank you all!